

I. omus. The cephalothorax of *I. shillongensis* is reddish-brown but in *I. omus* the cephalothorax has a pair of large brown patches behind the eyes.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
EASTERN REGIONAL STATION,
SHILLONG-4 (INDIA),
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B. K. TIKADER

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27. ON THE ABUNDANT OCCURRENCE OF *DESMOPTERUS GARDINERI* TESCH 1910, (THECOSOMATA : MOLLUSCA),
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

(With a map)

The genus *Desmopterus* was created by Chun in 1888 to include a single species *D. papilio*. This species is known to have a wide range of distribution from 35°N to 40°S latitudes in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans (Meisenheimer 1905 ; Tesch 1910, 1946).

Tesch added a new species, *D. gardineri* in 1910, based on a single specimen collected near the Chagos Archipelago (Map) during the Percy Sladen Trust Expedition (Tesch 1910). *D. gardineri* is distinguished from *D. papilio* by the form and arrangement of the muscle bands of the two fins. In both species the muscle bands run in two main directions, at right angles to one another. But in *D. gardineri*, the muscle bands are distinctly broader and clearly separated from one another, in contrast to *D. papilio*.

Since 1910, the only noteworthy collections reported on from the Indian Ocean are the Dana collections of 1928-30 Tesch (1946, 1948). He was unable to find examples of either species of *Desmopterus* in the Indian Ocean stations, and only one record of *D. papilio* from the Atlantic (*vide* p. 41, Tesch 1948). The present author has been unable to trace any published record of *D. gardineri* from the Indian Ocean or the other oceans of the world, since the date of original description.

The studies now in progress in the Indian Ocean Biological Centre, Ernakulam, (Kerala), on the Thecosomata (Opisthobranchiata, Order

Thecosomata: Mollusca) of the International Indian Ocean Expedition Collections, have revealed that both species of *Desmopterus* occur over wide areas of the Indian Ocean. Though *D. gardineri* is less abundant than *D. papilio*, it has been recognized in 32 stations out of the 395 stations examined so far (Cruises of *Argo* and *Anton Bruun*). It was identified in ten stations in the Bay of Bengal, five in the Arabian Sea and seventeen in the south-west region of the Indian Ocean as depicted in the Map, extending as far as 32°S latitude. Areas of relatively greater abundance may be mentioned as the central part of the Bay of Bengal, the east coast of Somalia and the north-west coast of Madagascar (Map). The number of specimens of *D. gardineri* estimated till now, totals 125 and the largest number from a single haul, (20 individuals) was in a station in the Bay of Bengal. A fuller account of the systematics, morphology and distribution of *Desmopterus* and other pelagic Thecosomata will be published elsewhere.

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September 27, 1967.

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28. ADDITIONS TO THE FLORA OF BOMBAY

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